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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09 892,713	06 28 2001	Yusuke Kohyama	01701.00090	4702
22907	7590	08 18 2003		
BANNER & WITCOFF 1001 G STREET N W SUITE 1100 WASHINGTON, DC 20001			EXAMINER	
			PHAM, LONG	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		2814		

DATE MAILED: 08 18 2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/892,713	KOHYAMA, YUSUKE
	Examiner Long Pham	Art Unit 2814

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 3,4 and 19-23 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) 4 and 20 is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 3,19,21 and 22 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) 23 is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
 If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 3, 19, 21, and 22 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
3. Claims 3, 19, 21, and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over applicant's admitted prior art (AAPA) of this application in view of Matsumoto (JA '221).

With respect to claim 3, AAPA teaches a semiconductor device comprising (see figures 1A-1C and 2A-2C and the Background of the Invention on pages 1-8 of this application):

capacitor structures, each having a first low electrode, a first insulating film formed on the first lower electrode and a first upper electrode formed on the first insulating film;

electric fuse elements, each having a second lower electrode, a second insulating layer formed on the second lower electrode and a second upper electrode formed on the second insulating, the electric fuse having substantially same structure as that of the capacitor structures and being formed on the same level as that of the capacitor structures, wherein information is written in the electric fuse element depending on whether the second insulating film is dielectrically broken down, and a writing voltage of the electric fuse is determined by dielectric breakdown resistance of the second insulating film.

AAPA further teaches that the capacitor structures require a high dielectric breakdown resistance or the first insulating layer has high dielectric breakdown resistance and that the electric fuse elements require a low

dielectric breakdown resistance or the second insulating layer has a low dielectric breakdown resistance so that the fuse can be broken with lowest possible voltage but fails to teach that the second insulating layer has low dielectric breakdown resistance by having a higher impurity concentration than the first insulating layer as recited in present claim 3.

Matsumoto teaches that if the a gate oxide has higher impurity concentration, more breakdown is generated at low voltage or low dielectric breakdown resistance is obtained. See the English abstract.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art of making semiconductor devices to incorporate Matsumoto's teaching into the device of AAPA because in doing so the low dielectric breakdown resistance of the second insulating layer can be achieved. See The English abstract.

AAPA further teaches an impurity diffusion layer 14 in A2 portion of a second conductivity type, which is formed in at least a portion of substrate, the impurity diffusion layer being paired with the second gate electrode and connected to the bottom second gate electrode and inherently served as one electrode of the electric fuse element. See page 5, lines 1-20 of this AAPA.

With respect to claim 21, regarding how the impurity diffusion layer is formed. It is submitted that how the diffusion layer is formed is given no weight in the determination of the patentability of present device claims unless it results in structural difference.

With respect to claims 19 and 22, AAPA further teaches the impurity diffusion layer is located directly underneath at least a part of the second gate electrode.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 4 and 20 are allowed.

5. Claim 23 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Long Pham whose telephone number is 703-308-1092. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8:30AM-5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wael Fahmy can be reached on 703-308-4918. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-746-4082 for regular communications and 703-746-4082 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0956.

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Long Pham".

Primary Examiner

Art Unit 2814

L. P.

August 13, 2003